

ADELINE DALEY

Wanted: A Sure-Fire Guarantee

From past experience we have learned to be somewhat skeptical about the "guarantees" which come with items purchased for this particular household. Particularly when we read the fine print, "not responsible for damages resulting from improper handling, over-use or abuse." That means, I guess, that the manufacturers are not liable for anything that happens after you take it out of the box.

Nor do I have much confidence in the affidavit which pledges to replace any and all components which might become broken during the length of the warranty. EXCEPT plastic parts and the electrical cord, which, by a great coincidence, are the only parts which ever wear out.

Then there is the "unconditional" guarantee which sounds as binding as Lee surrendering to Grant at Appomattox. The hitch being that the parts are replaced free, but you pay for the installation. Which amounts to receiving a 27-cent bolt without charge but paying \$17.50 for labor.

As you might suspect, too, most guarantees are timed to expire the day before the appliance becomes inoperable. Not that anything we buy ever comes close to outliving

the warranty. We automatically cut in half the length of time they're supposed to last. In the case of a "lifetime" guarantee, we figure that this is meant to apply to the life expectancy of a Mediterranean fruit fly.

Most of the time, moreover, it's too inconvenient and costly to take advantage of the guarantee. Take, for instance, our "unbreakable" dishes. (Incidentally, we're the only family in America

which broke an entire set in six months.) You're supposed to wrap the pieces and send them to the factory with an explanation.

The latest "guarantee" to prove valueless is the verbal one issued by the salesman at the furniture store who assured us that the red leather chair we purchased would last until our future grandchildren and their children would be romping on it. Granted, the salesman

meant "normal" use, not the wear it has received as a part-time slide and trampoline by our kids and a place for the dog to bury his bones. But I didn't expect it to fall apart faster than our other pieces (and I do mean pieces) of furniture.

Inevitably, the store suggested we mail it back to the factory—3,000 miles away. I would, if I could send the salesman back with it. I'd pay for the extra postage.

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5-Gal. Tank and Hood	\$3.98
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DOG FOOD

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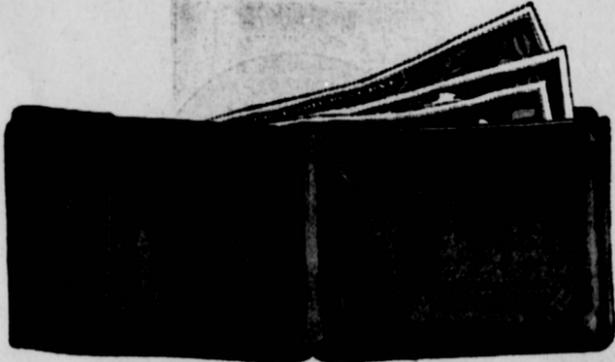
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All Beef...Beef & Horsemeat Mix
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Buy One Pound—Get One Pound...FREE

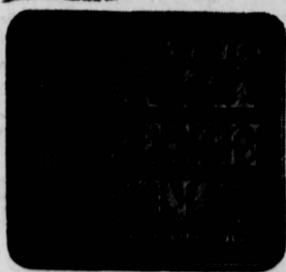
Your Heart Association Says



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